

Internal Google Grant Proposal 2011

AH description:

Arbor Heights is an elementary school (K-5) in the Seattle Public School District. We are located in an area of Seattle called West Seattle - just a short distance away from the beautiful Puget Sound.

The mission of Arbor Heights Elementary PTA is to “Support the Students, the Families and the Staff of the Arbor Heights Community.” Through our many PTA fundraising efforts, we strive to provide academic enrichment programs, capital improvements and supplies for students and the school. A large percentage of our funds are spent on Kindergarten assistants, 5th grade camp, instrumental music and many other long standing basic programs that are not funded through the school district.

Faced with more budget cuts this year, it is challenging to meet the needs of our students. This year's reduction in per pupil allocation by \$47 per student amounts to a \$15,768 cut. The biggest reduction is in our Learning Assistance Program, where it went from having \$35,751 last year to \$4,376 this year.

We have 18 classrooms with a total of 367 students. Our schools ethnicity percentages are 67% Caucasian, 18% African American, 13% Latino, 6% Native American, 5% East African, 3% Cambodian, 3% Chinese, 2% Vietnamese.
Out of these students, 44% qualifies for free and reduced lunch.

Echoing our PTA mission is our goal of a functioning computer lab. Currently we have 30 computers in our lab, 5-8 of which are not working at any given time. Our standardized MSP (Measurement of Student Progress) tests are taken on these computers. Without properly functioning computers our test results do not indicate accurate results. Many students are not able to complete testing during their scheduled session because of computer malfunctions. Teachers are often juggling student schedules to accommodate working computers.

Recent increased test scores can be contributed to our dedicated staff and Study Island, a fun Internet based program that our students can access anywhere Internet is available. This program has been purchased by the Arbor Heights PTA this year for all students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Study Island directly covers all of the subjects in the Washington State standards upon which the state MSP Test is based. It presents questions, which are similar to those found in the MSP and MAP tests, and does an excellent job of preparing students to perform well on those tests. Last year, Arbor Heights' students answered over 94,000 questions on Study Island. Our 4th graders made dramatic gains in the state MSP math test last year going from a 29.5% pass rate in 2010 to a whopping 73.0% pass rate in 2011 - beating both district and state averages! We hope to see similar gains in all grades this year. Through your grant program for computer hardware, you will help contribute to the success of every student at Arbor Heights Elementary School.

Arbor Heights Computer Hardware Needs:

Arbor Heights is desperately in need of updated computer equipment. Students are currently working in a 30-station lab with eight-year-old computers that regularly need repair. Each classroom has 2 or 3 relatively new computers and 2 or 3 that are more than 10 years old. Teachers need at least 5 up-to-date computers in their rooms to successfully group and share them in meaningful ways with their students. The infrastructure and fiber network at the school is solid and up to date. PTA has provided several Wireless Access Points for the school. The lab is in nearly constant use for student research, digital literacy projects, and online learning opportunities. A third of the year the lab is used exclusively for required MAP and MSP testing.

Our staff needs laptops to meet the increased online demands of their jobs, from prepping for lessons, to online grading systems, to online classes, to communicating with parents – and they need the portability of a laptop so they can continue their work from wherever they are. Our staff has never had laptops at our school. They could use them to increase their efficiency and expertise.

Please provide us with:

- 30 PC sound capable desktop computers for our lab, with peripherals.
- 90 PC sound capable computers for our classrooms (5 per classroom) with peripherals.
- 40 PC laptops for staff
- 20 Smartboards for classrooms
- 12 Wireless access points to bring wireless access to whole school
- 18 Networked Laser printers (b&w) for all classrooms
- 9 Networked Laser printers (color) for shared use (2 classrooms per printer)

Or

- 30 PC sound capable desktops (no monitors) for lab w/ other peripherals
- 40 PC sound capable desktop systems for 20 classrooms w/ peripherals
- 30 PC laptops for certified staff
- 20 Smartboards for classrooms
- 12 Wireless access points to bring wireless access to whole school
- 18 Networked Laser printers (b&w) for all classrooms
- 9 Networked Laser printers (color) for shared use (2 classrooms per printer)

All computers (PC) need network access, with gigabit network cards. Desktops should have at least 4 GB RAM.

Our current relatively new 2-3 computers per classroom will be moved to the library, office and other needed areas.

Ville, please feel free to revise as needed. I'm out on a limb with this computer writing. I've obviously gone for the gusto! ☺ Good luck!